

WI-411
Melson Farm
Hebron vicinity
Private

c. 1830

Historically associated with the Melson family for over one-hundred years, this two-story, three-part farmhouse occupied a high knoll in the center of a large farm southeast of Hebron. The three-part farmhouse shares the high ground with a number of mature shade trees, one of which is a tremendous sycamore probably as old as the house.

Architectural details indicate the main block and wing were built in several stages, beginning around 1830. Around 1890 a Victorian renovation included the addition of a two-story, three-side bay pavilion on top of the kitchen wing, and turned post porches were introduced on the main entrance as well as the service end of the house. A number of outbuildings survive as well. North of the house is a three level frame potato house and a bi-level frame incubator house used for raising chickens.

While Daniel F. Melson purchased this farm in 1855, and his descendants held title to the property until 1972, the house was probably built during the ownership of John and Eleanor McDaniel, who acquired the 217-acre plantation in 1832 through his wife's mother and sister. John and Eleanor McDaniel continued to own the plantation, consisting of tracts known as "Come By Chance" and "High Suffolk," until Daniel F. Melson of Worcester County purchased the property in January 1855. Daniel and his wife Sarah remained on this farm until their deaths and are buried near the farmhouse behind the outbuilding known as an incubator house. At his death in 1882 Daniel F. Melson, by order of his will, left his farm to his five sons, while his wife,

Sarah, inherited twelve hundred dollars as well as "...one feather bed and bedstead and furniture for same of her choice, sewing machine, four flag bottomed chairs, one rocking chair formerly hers & one table." In another item Daniel left to wife, "....all the chickens and other fowls on the premises where I live at the time of my death, also sufficient provisions of meat, flour, and corn for her individual use for one year, but not to sell." Sarah Melson outlived her husband by ten years. She is buried in the family plot along with a son, Robert Newton Melson.

Thomas A. Melson purchased the divided interests in the farm from his siblings in 1884, and he resided on the property until his death in 1930. The farm passed to Bliss U. Nelson, who held tenure here for the following forty-two years.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Melson Farm

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-411

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition
1815-1870
4. Resource Type(s): Farm Complex
-farmhouse
-potato house
-incubator house

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Melson Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 7150 Sycamore Lane _____ not for publication

city, town Hebron X vicinity of congressional district First

state	Maryland	county	Wicomico
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3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Theodore A. and Shirley Toadvine
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street & number 7150 Sycamore Lane **telephone no.:**

city, town	Hebron	state and zip code	MD	21830
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5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 28, P. 146
liber 767

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 222

city, town	Salisbury	state	MD	21801
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6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-411

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Melson farm, designated with the address 7150 Sycamore Lane, is located at the end of a long dirt farm lane southeast of Hebron, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house, built atop a sandy knoll, faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Estimated to date around 1825-40, the two-story, three-part frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is uniformly clad with yellow vinyl siding. The various gable roofs are covered with green asphalt shingles. Joining the house on the sandy knoll is a collection of early twentieth century outbuildings that includes a three-level frame potato house, a bi-level frame incubator house, a gable roofed garage, and a single story gable roofed wagon house. A modern gambrel roofed barn has been recently built on the site. Located behind the incubator house is a family graveyard. Burials in this cemetery include Daniel F. Melson (12/8/1818-9/19/1882), Sarah E. Melson (2/27/1828-3/20/1892), and Robert Newton Melson (12/25/1850-2/19/1881) along with a unreadable child's grave marker who died at birth. There are several very old trees on the property. Standing directly in front of the house is a tremendous sycamore.

The west (main) facade of the three-part house is an asymmetrical elevation. The two-story, four-bay main block extends to the south with a single story gable roofed kitchen wing that dates around the same time or possibly prior to the construction of the main block. Around 1890-1900 a two-story, three-sided bay pavilion was built atop the kitchen wing and adjacent to the main house. The four-bay west facade is defined by an off-center entrance located in the third bay from the north corner. A Victorian cross-gabled, turned post porch shelters the front door, which is partially glazed and trimmed with turn of the twentieth century applied decoration. The door is topped by a two-light transom. To each side are two-over-two sash window openings. The second floor is lighted by four unevenly spaced two-over-two windows. A wider space between the second and third windows may indicate a shift in construction within the main block. The top of the wall is defined by a boxed cornice sheathed with vinyl as well.

The north gable end is dominated by a large stretcher bond brick stack of recent construction. The stack protrudes through an extended eave. Otherwise, the wall is a plain surface covered with vinyl siding.

The east (rear) wall of the main block is a four-bay elevation with a shed roofed porch extending across the first floor. The first and second floors are lighted by two-over-two sash windows. Rising through the gable end is an interior end brick stack.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-411

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Historically associated with the Melson family for over one-hundred years, this two-story, three-part farmhouse occupied a high knoll in the center of a large farm southeast of Hebron. The three-part farmhouse shares the high ground with a number of mature shade trees, one of which is a tremendous sycamore probably as old as the house.

Architectural details indicate the main block and wing were built in several stages, beginning around 1830. Around 1890 a Victorian renovation included the addition of a two-story, three-side bay pavilion on top of the kitchen wing, and turned post porches were introduced on the main entrance as well as the service end of the house. A number of outbuildings survive as well. North of the house is a three level frame potato house and a bi-level frame incubator house used for raising chickens.

While Daniel F. Melson purchased this farm in 1855,¹ and his descendants held title to the property until 1972,² the house was probably built during the ownership of John and Eleanor McDaniel, who acquired the 217-acre plantation in 1832 through his wife's mother and sister.³ John and Eleanor McDaniel continued to own the plantation, consisting of tracts known as "Come By Chance" and "High Suffolk," until Daniel F. Melson of Worcester County purchased the property in January 1855. Daniel and his wife Sarah remained on this farm until their deaths and are buried near the farmhouse behind the outbuilding known as an incubator house. At his death in 1882 Daniel F. Melson, by order of his will, left his farm to his five sons, while his wife, Sarah, inherited twelve hundred dollars as well as "...one feather bed and bedstead and furniture for same of her choice, sewing machine, four flag bottomed chairs, one rocking chair formerly hers & one table." In another item Daniel left to wife, "...all the chickens and other fowls on the premises where I live at the time of my death, also sufficient provisions of meat, flour, and corn for her individual use for one year,

¹ Somerset County Land Record, LW 3/366, 1 January 1855.

² Wicomico County Land Record, 767/222, 1 August 1972.

³ Somerset County Land Record, GH 6/584, 21 December 1832.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-411

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

date 6/15/99

street & number P. O. Box 5

telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover

state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2028
514-7600

7.1 DESCRIPTION

Melson Farm, WI-411

Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

The south gable end of the main block is entirely covered by the single-story kitchen with its Victorian pavilion addition. The west side of the pavilion is a three-sided front pierced by single-pane sash windows and spindle decorated eave under the gable roof. The gable end is pierced by a diamond-shaped window. South of the Victorian bay is a shed roofed turned post porch that shelters the door opening into the kitchen wing. Attached to the south end of the kitchen is an enclosed shed addition pierced by a bank of six-over-six and two-over-two sash windows. Rising through the shed addition is an early nineteenth-century brick stack. A modern brick stack has been erected on the west side of the old stack. The gable end of the kitchen wing is flush and covered in vinyl.

Standing on the north side of the house are two outbuildings; a three-level frame potato house and a bi-level frame incubator house. The potato house, dating around 1920, is supported on a concrete foundation with an excavated cellar. The exterior is clad with plain weatherboards that are attached to a diagonal plank sheathing which is nailed to the frame. Three tiers of window openings are covered with board shutters. The medium pitched gable roof, defined by extended eaves and exposed rafter ends, is covered with asphalt shingles. Piercing the north gable end is a brick stove stack. Entrance to the building is provided by way of an exterior staircase that leads to a second level doorway.

North of the potato house is a bi-level frame incubator house supported on a concrete block foundation and sheathed with vertical board siding. The medium to low pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The south wall is marked by a gable roofed shelter that covers a wooden stair leading to a cellar door. The concrete block foundation is pierced by four-pane windows, and the upper floor is lighted by six-over-six sash windows. Fixed to the west gable end is an exterior stair that leads to the gable end entrance to the upper level. A single flue brick stove chimney is attached to the east gable end, which is pierced by a six-over-six sash window for the main room and a small two-over-two sash under the eave. A second single flue brick stack rises on the northwest corner of the building.

Located on the south side of the house are two single story gable roofed frame buildings. Standing closer to the house is a single-bay frame garage. A multi-bay frame wagon house stands south of the garage. Off the southwest corner of the house is a modern barn shaped building covered with a gambrel roof.

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

Melson Farm, WI-411

Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

but not to sell.”⁴ Sarah Melson outlived her husband by ten years. She his buried in the family plot along with a son, Robert Newton Melson.

Thomas A. Melson purchased the interests in the farm from his siblings in 1884, and he resided on the property until his death in 1930.⁵ The farm passed to Bliss U. Nelson, who held tenure here for the following forty-two years.

⁴ Wicomico County Register of Wills, ELW 1/57, probated 12 December 1882.

⁵ Wicomico County Register of Wills, MNN 1/205, probated 13 February 1892.

WI-411
Melson Farm
7150 Sycamore Lane
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 28, Parcel 146

767/222

Bliss U. Melson

to

8/11972

Theodore A. and Shirley Toadvine
140.08 acres ...the land herein described and conveyed being
a part only of and the residue of several parcels or tracts of
land known or formerly known as "Come By Chance," "High
Suffolk," "Consolidation," "Little Bitt," and "Hard
to Come At"

Will Book
MNN 1/205

Last Will and Testament of Thomas A. Melson

to

Written
10/19/1928
Proved
2/13/1930

Bliss U. Melson, subject to the dower interest of Ella A.
Melson, who subsequently died on 9/2/1938

Article No. 3

SPT 6/421

Samuel F. Melson, Levin M. Melson, James L. Melson, Daniel
W. Melson

to

6/17/1884

Thomas A. Melson
162 acres

WI-411
Melson Farm
7150 Sycamore Lane
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

Will Book
ELW 1/57

Last Will and Testament of Daniel F. Melson

to five sons,

Written
8/3/1882
Proved
12/12/1882

Thomas A. Melson, Samuel F. Melson, Levin M. Melson,
James L. Melson, and Daniel W. Melson

Item 4: I give and bequeath to my wife Sarah E. Melson, the sum of twelve hundred dollars, also one feather bed and bedstead and furniture for same of her choice, sewing machine, four flag bottomed chairs, one rocking chair formerly hers & one table, this bequest to be in lieu of her, my said wife's dower in my estate both real and personal...

Item 4: (sic) ...to my five sons "all the rest and residue of my estate..."

Item 5: I give to my wife, in addition to the legacy above named, all the chickens and other fowls on the premises where I live at the time of my death, also sufficient provisions of meat, flour, and corn for her individual use for one year, but not to sell.

Somerset County
Land Record
LW 3/366

John McDaniel
Eleanor H. McDaniel

to

1/1/1855

Daniel F. Melson, of Worcester County
\$3,200 "Come By Chance," "High Suffolk," 217 acres
"Consolidation" which was purchased by John
McDaniel of a certain John Byrd containing 30 acres

also two small pieces of land called "Little Bitt" and
"Hard to Come At" 17 1/2 acres

...upon which where said John McDaniel formerly
resided....

WI-411
Melson Farm
Hebron vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Somerset County
Land Record
GH 6/584

Juliann Johnson (daughter and heir of William Hearn, dec'd)

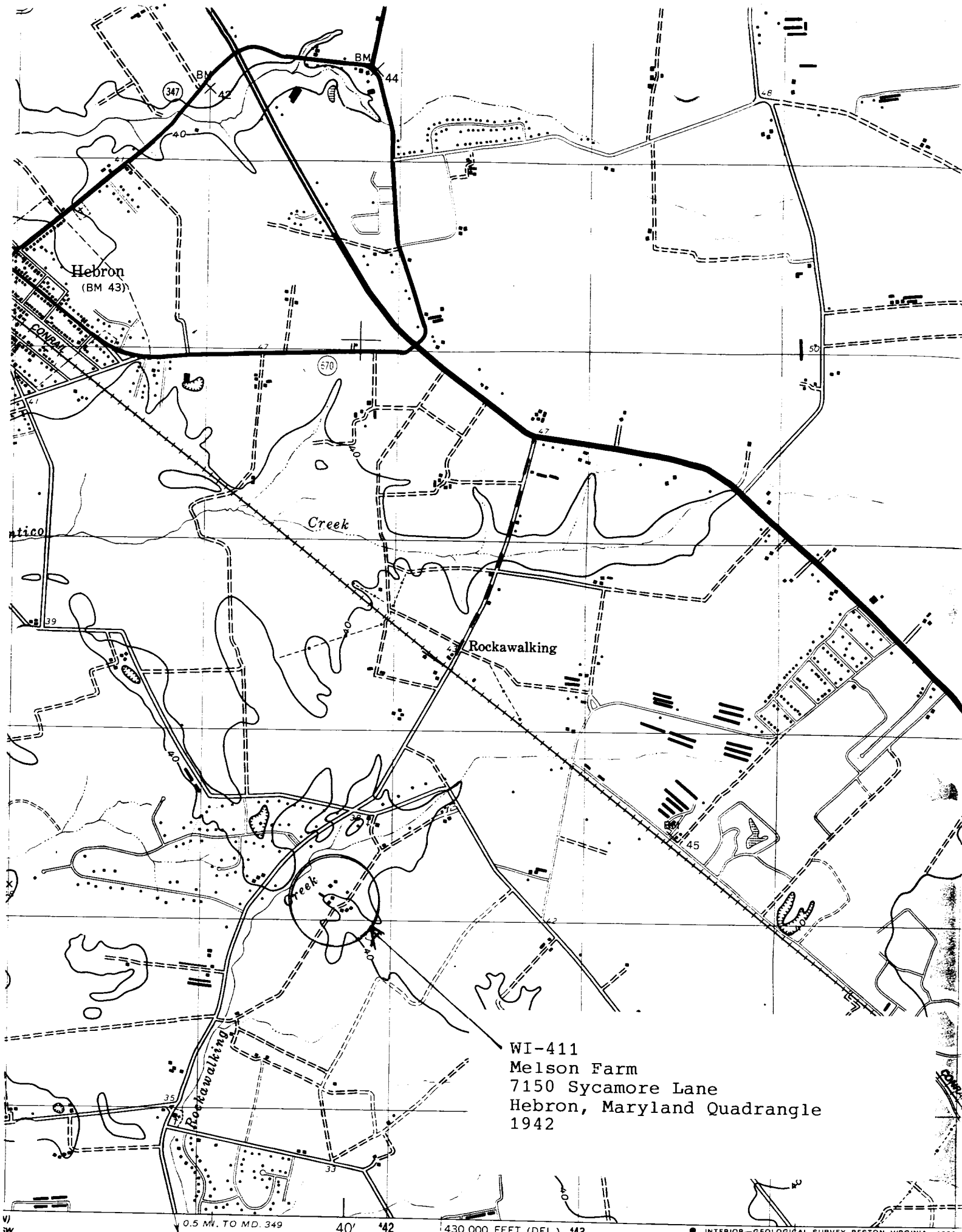
to

12/21/1832

John McDaniel
Eleanor McDaniel
Jane Handy, two daughters and heirs at law of Nelly Handy
"Come By Chance" "High Suffolk" 217 acres
whereon the said John McDaniel now resides...

Lake, Griffin, and Stevenson Atlas
1877

**Dist. № 9**



WI-411
Melson Farm
7150 Sycamore Lane
Hebron, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



W11-411

Melton, Kansas

Rockwell on 10/2, 1912

Southwest 10/2/12

4/99 Pm 10:00 - 11:00

W11-411, 10/2/12

1 of 1



12 - 100

Meerion Farm

Riverbank & 1000 ft. above the river
, 1000 ft. above the river

1/19, 1000 ft. above the river, 1000 ft. above the river

1000 ft. above the river, 1000 ft. above the river

1000 ft. above the river



W1-411

MELSON Farm

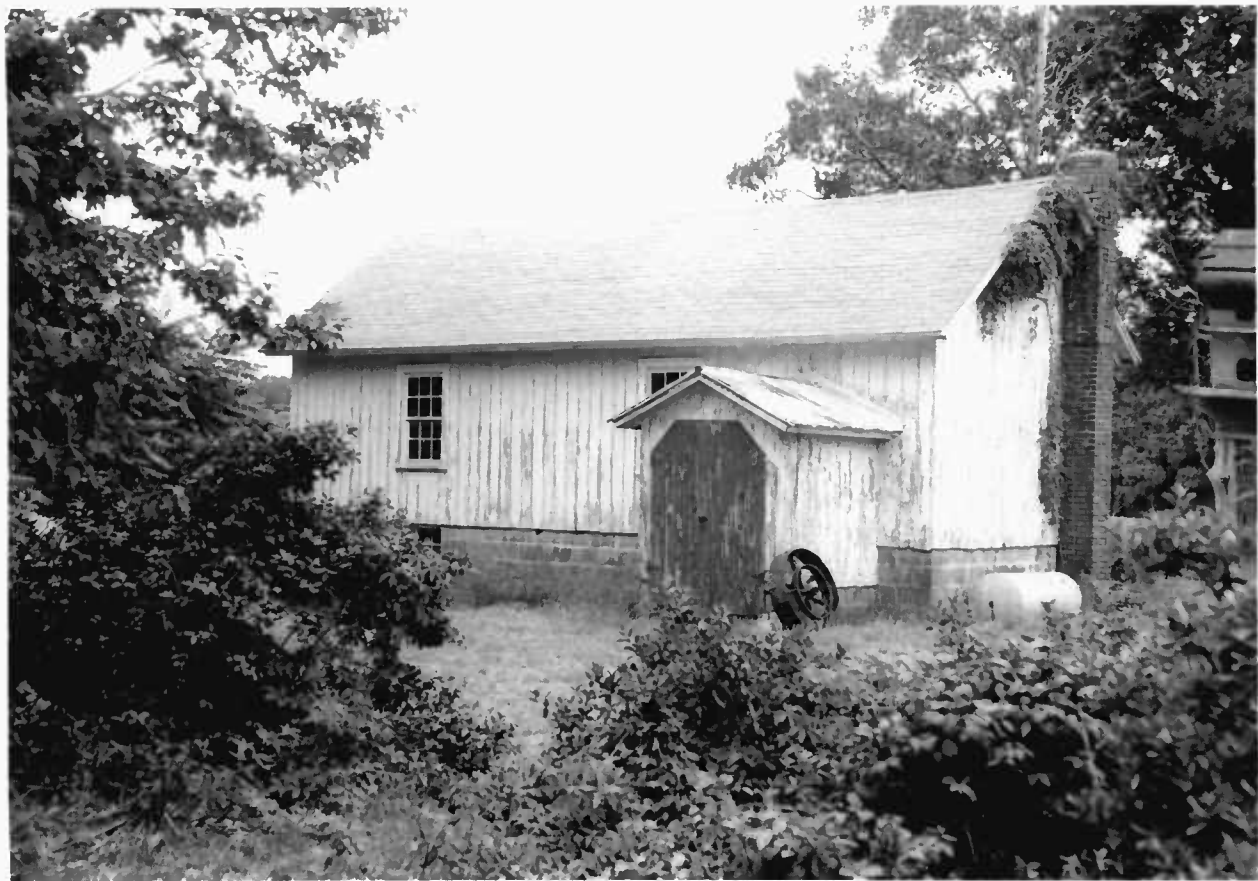
KICKAPOO WIL, 1944

1000 1000 1000

1947, PA. Farm, 1000 1000

W1-411 (1000 1000) 1000

3 x 6



W-411

MELSON PLAIN

Rocky Mountain Mts., Wyoming

South elevation of Independence Mts.

6/99, Fair Tourist Protection, etc.

Not fully illustrated.

4 or 6





WEL 411

Isolated from

Rocky Mountain Virus, Washington State.

Unusually elevated level of RNA content

2/99 Paul Tamm, Washington

NEG / MO. H5N1 in Tamm

6 of 6